dom carriers with DGCA, which will be approved within 48 hours of filing. These fares will be advertised in leading newspapers by Board of Airline Representatives — India. Other carriers would be entitled to match the approved fares of 3rd and 4th freedom carriers after notifying DGCA in writing.

(c) Air travellers would get the benefit of competitive fares.

Helicopter services in the country

309. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many authorised Private Helicopter Service Operators are functioning in the country;

(b) whether Pawan Hans Corporation, which was established to provide Helicopter Services to public has stopped hiring helicopters to public ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are considering to popularise Helicopter services in the country so as to promote Tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There are presently 5 private operators having helicopters endorsed in their permits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Helicopter operators are free to operate to place of tourist interest.

Introduction of helicopter Service by ITDC

310. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the I.T.D.C. in considering to introduce Helicopter service to promote tourism in the country;

(b) if not, whether such a proposal is feasible in view of the absence of Air routes or Air strip in most of the tourist stops in the country; and

(c) whether Government would consider examining the feasibility of such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Presently there is no proposal under consideration of ITDC for introducing a helicopter service to promote tourism in the country. The Corporation has also not carried out any feasibility study for such a proposal.

Utilisation of bilateral air traffic entitlement

311. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air traffic entitlement remains substantially unutilised;

(b) if so, what percentage of bilateral air traffic entitlement is currently being utilised and what are the reasons for its under untilisation:

(c) what is the annual estimated loss of revenue due to under utilisation of bilateral entitlement; and

(d) wrat steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Bilateral entitlements of Indian and foreign carriers are generally equal on country pair basis. India carriers i.e. Air India and Indian Air-